# NO MORE MOIETIES.

Mass Meeting of Merchants at Steinway Hall.

Scathing Denunciation of the Moiety System.

#### LEGALIZED OPPRESSION

Report of the Special Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

Epeeches by Joseph H. Choate, Jackson S. Schultz.

The special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce which was held last evening in Steinway Hail "to hear the report of the Committee on Revenue Reform as to the action recently taken by them in Washington," was indeed a special meeting in more ways than one. Special technically, accordng to the call issued for it, it was also special in that it was one of the largest meetings of "solid men" that have been held in this city for years, The entire body of the half was filled, with the exception of the last two rows of chairs, with memers of the Chamber not only, but with importer s who are not members, and merchants geneit may be not so direct, as that which the importers have in seeing the infamous molety system speedily destroyed. On the platform were George Opdyke, Vice President Chamber of Commerce; A. A. Low, J. S. Schultz, S. B. Chittenden, Cyrus W. Field, George W. Lane, William N. Fogg, William M. Vermilye, Leopold Bierwirth, Joseph Seligman, J. A. Stevens, Jr.; James M. Constable, S. B. Engries, Ambrose Snow, D. C. Robbins, Joseph Stuart, Joseph Choate, Gustave Schwab, Oliver Hoyt, Jonathan Sturges, L. E. Chillender, Samuel Sloan, M. K. Jesup, James S. T. Stranahan, James M. Brown, William F. Lee, William C. Stuarr, William J. Peake, Charles Mall, Elliot C. Cowdin, Charles E.

Beebe and J. N. Paelps.

After Mr. Opdyke and formally opened the proceedings Mr. Joseph A. Chonte was introduced. His speech was listened to with rapt attention. His sarcastic aliusions to the percentages enjoyed by the United States District Attorney, the Naval Officer and the Collector, and to the fact that they were "great distorters of the legal mind," and that there had been found a man, to use Lord Chatham's words, "of sufficient profilgacy" to argue that the law of 1863 authorized the seizure of merchants' books and papers was constitutional, created a great deal of merthent. His telling hits at the expense of the Custom House officers who, in conjunction with "a leading depredator upon the pockets of New York merchants," had the inlamous law approved by the Secretary of the Treasury; his denunciation of the spy system as an inlamy and his assertion that the only way to amend the law was to attolish it altogether and "put nothing in its place" were loudly applicated. His respects to Jayne and "men worthy of his name" were paid in a vein of biting sarcasm that brought down the nouse. When he first mentioned his name the whole meeting broke out into hisses, showing quite plainly that Jayne, "the great imperial mormer," as Mr. Choate called him, will by no means hereafter be considered either as the general delight or as the particular loy forever of the mercantile community. The speeches that followed were all brimind of facts and figures relative to the reign of terror which the importers have so long labored under, and though they, no doubt, were unable to give their hearers, importers tiemselves, anything new in the matter of the extorions suffered by the merchants by reason of the mode in which the law of 1863 is enforced, the speeches certainly served to wake up the merchants to the lact that they had certain rights which even the government had to respect.

As an expression of the general sentiment of the and that there had been found a man, to use Lord

respect.

As an expression of the general sentiment of the merchants of this city as to the intamy of the law, with places them virtually at the mercy of sples and informers, the meeting was in point of numbers, inductoes and enthusiam a decided success; and it is highly probable, when the special committee's report and the proceedings of the meeting are read at Washington that the stand the importers may openly taken, as evinced at the meeting, will have no small influence upon Congress in its proposed legislation for "Revenue Reform."

The meeting was opened by Mr. George Opdyke,

gress in its proposed legislation for "Revenue Reform."

The meeting was opened by Mr. George Opdyke,
who said that this is a special meeting of the
Champer of Commerce, with waom were associated
many mercantile friends. Invited to hear the report
of the committee of the Chamber on revenue reform, and to appoint a committee to visit Washington, and, in co-operation with committees from
other Chambers of Commerce, to urge upon Congress the necessity of adopting some radical
change in the law relating to the collection of customs. He said, in conclusion, that the
REFORT ON REVENUE REFORM
would be read by Mr. John Austin Stevens. The
report is as follows:—

would be read by Mr. John Austin Stevens. The report is as follows:—

The special committee to which the Chamber of Commerce intrusted the presentation to Congress of its resolutions on revenie reform respectibly report that in other of the instructions, and having joined to themselves able counsel, they proceeded to Washing on on the 16th day of February. They were there met by a delegation from Boston, asso assisted by counsel. A joint plan of action was agreed upon and the presentation of the sobject aliotted. In response to request of the Committee of Ways and Means, through its enairman, they appeared before that body on the morning of the 17th, when, after short consultation, during which Mr. Dawes, the chairman, stated his mability to be present on account of irgent private business in Massachusetts, the chairman, stated his mability to be present on account of irgent private business in Massachusetts, the chairman was pounded in the 3d of March. This arrangement was quite in conformity with the views of your delegation, pending the primiting of the report of the Secretary of the Treasury upon the fines and for relutires the last four years.

The Chamber as well as the public at large remember that subsequent to this adjournment a special agent of the Freasury appeared before the Committee of Ways and Means and indused in violent personal attacks upon merchants who had suffered from the law and in delamatory aspersions of the mercantile class at large. It is not necessary here to dwell upon this subject nor give of tan undue importance. An allusion is only made to bring out clearly the reason while an application to the Committee of Ways and Acans for a change in the revenue system in part drifted into a personal controversy, it was clearly the pladgment of your committee—a judgment of may had been been allusted in the presentation of the resolutions with when the committee of the poston delegation in an able argument for the presentation of the resolutions with when the committee of the poston delegatio

dressed the committee, and were examined in detail by its members.

This branc of the subject disposed of, your delegation were called upon and in their turn submitted through control of the subject disposed of, your delegation were called upon and in their turn submitted through the subject of books and papers and the general hardships of the law, with copious illustrations from cases within their personal practice. The various members of your delegation were also heard and examined in detail, and at the close the geallemen from Philadelphia and Battimore and the representative of the National Hoard gave their testimony in the same direction, and sustained the demand for a radical change in the system.

After careful comparison of views the delegation had agreed to confine themselves to a demand for five changes in the law. A copy of the prince form which they submitted to the Ways and Means Committee is appended to this report. The proposed changes consist, first, of a repeal of the law authorizing the selzure of looks and papers. Second, of that giving moities to informers and others. I hird, to limit actions to recover to two years. Fourth, do find grand. Fifth, to render the payment of duties conclusive upon all parties in absence the arguments brought forward in support of the

of an invoice in which there is fraud. Fifth, to render the payment of duties conclusive upon all parties in absence of fraud.

The arguments brought forward in support of the various changes are too familiar to the mercantile community to need any lengthy repetition here. The embarrassment created to merchants by the seizure and detention of their books, are cases of innocence, either reduced their parties of the seizure and detention of their books. Are cases of innocence, either reduced their or reparations is well known. Not so the general town or reparation is well known, Not so the general dear or reparation is well known, Not so the general dear or reparation is well known, Not so the general dear or reparation is well known, Not so the general dear of the seems to have failen—a demoralization marked and whilespread enough to excite the comment and contempt even of the informers who profited by it.

With regard to the system of moleties, it is certain that there is no compensation in the amount of revenue saved to the government for the general temptation for the custom flouse than by a loose administration of the Custom flouse than by a severe and strict supervision of the minor officials, which would wholly prevent any intringenent of the laws. It is worthy of remark that a very large proportion of the cases of fraud brought to the notice of the Congressional Committee by the Special Agent, were of collusion between the importer and some Custom House official—either measurer, weigher, gauger or liquidating clerk. Such trauds as these deserve and should receive severe punishment; but is toere any sufficient reason why an exceptional law should be made for that punishment, which falls, within the penal code? Practically, as admitted by the District Attorney in his testing of the properties of the complained of the special severes that, all though complained of the special severes that, all though complained of the special severes that, all though complained of the special severes that all the punishment, straordinary period.
All of the committees laid great stress upon the limitalon of forfeitures to the specific items in which fraud or
indervaluation are proven, and asked that the taint
hould not reach the whole invoice. Perhaps no part of
he investigation aroused more interest and diversity of
suinon than this. and from this very diversity there

reader their accounts if the government is to retain be right of perpetual revision.

The committee of the government is to retain be right of perpetual revision.

The committee of ways and Measa rendered it is necessary to the committee of ways and Measa rendered it is necessary to the committee of ways and Measa rendered it is necessary to the way of the committee of the committee of the committee of the committee and tramphant desired with the complete and tramphant desired to the committee and the committee

said about the great maxim of English liberty—that every man's nouse is his caste—and why? Hecause it is surrounded with a most of odelended by walls and ramparts? No. It might be a hut of straw, the winds might whistle through it, the rams might enter it, out the King imaself could not. (Great appliance,) It that was a good office for Englishment and the could not be for Englishment and the could not be for Englishment and the could not see for the plant of the could not see for the statution? (Cheers,) Now, the only way to amend this connoxions haw its abolish it allogether. (Appliance,) What is the great plea for it? Necessity—necessity, the tyrant's only plea. Even our District Attorney, on whose judicial judgment it rested to say whether a prosecution should be instituted under the law, receives his share of the spoils. And our present District Attorney went to Washington the other day and told the committee of Congress that he could not see how the government could dispense with it. Well, it must be said that the law was never thought of till 1863; and if the government and people of this country could get mong ammonious of the government until 1863 I cannot see how they cannot get on without it in the nuture. The history of the passage of that law is welk known. The law never was passed with the knowledge of the people of the country—it was what is vulgarly called a put-up job—a job put on the merchants by informers and Custom House officers. (Applause.) The law was passed in 1863, when our great and glorious Secretary of the Treastry that we had on that day was over whelmed with the terrible prospect before the country—when the life of the nation was at stake, and he was anxiously devising the means of successful rescue; then it was that the leading depredators on the private rights and pockets or the present of the Secretary of the Treastry that we had only the summer of the former of the not the law passed Congress before any one knew that the leading depredators on the private rights and the law pass

ables them to do the and be called on to receive himself; but that is ignored by the law and of the law and of the law and the called on to receive himself; but that is ignored by the law and the called on the law and the called on the law and the called on the law and the law and

The possibility of a new issue of inconvertible paper I regard with amasement and anxiety, and, in my judgment, such an issue would be a delriment and a shame. - CHARLES SUMNER.

FATAL RESULT OF A BROOKLYN FRACAS. Death of Sigusmund from the Blow of a

Jacob Signsmund from the Blow of a Stene.

Jacob Signsmund field at the Long Island College Hospital at an early bour yesterday morning from the effects of a fracture of the skull by a blow from a paving stone thrown by a boy in the street, as detailed in the Herald some days ago. The stone struck him on the left side of the head, knocking him senseless to the sidewalk. The brother of the prostrate man procured assistance and had him removed to his home in the vicinity. A few days after he was taken to the hospital, where he was trepanned, and fragments of the skull which had been pressing upon the brain were removed, affording the patient great relief and restoring consciousness, which he retained for two days, or up to within five days before his death. The assailant Crowe, who is only seventeen years of age, was arrested last week and arraigned before Justice Delmar, who committed him to jail. Deceased was about twenty-five years old, a native of Germany and a baker by trade. A post-mortem examination will be made and the inquest heid to-day.

# WASHINGTON.

Prospect of a Vote on Finance in the Senate To-Day.

LOUISIANA'S CREDITORS

Double Taxation in the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1874. Finance in the Senate and Inter-state Transportation in the House-Gloomy Prospect for the Latter

In the Senate the finance question was resumed in a lengthy and able speech by senator Bayard, of Delaware, strongly protesting against an increase of the currency circulation and urgently advo cating a specie basis system of national money obligations. Senator Conkling was again brought to his feet to make a legal defence of Secretary contended that the issuing of the forty-four million reserve was proper and justifiable. Senator Sherman, who does not take this view of the case, came into the discussion, and contended that the Secretary was unauthorized in law or in the inten-

tion of Congress in delegating power to him. The bill to regulate commerce by railroads among the several States, which has been a fruitful theme for several weeks past, was brought to a vote in the House this afternoon on ordering the main question. The yeas were 133 and the nays 96. Mr. Niblack, of Indiana, moved that the bill lie on the table, which was lost by yeas 92, nays 129. The hour for adjournment had arrived and all further effort to get a final vote was useless. When that vote is taken it will be very close, with the chances against its passage. The democrats voted solidly against the bill, with many of the leading republicans. Even if the bill passes the House the Senate will certainly reconstruct it or never act upon it at ail.

Probable Passage of the \$400,000,000 Amendment to the Currency Bill by

the Senate. night to protest against further inflation, has been a source of casual remark without the accompaniment of any serious consideration. The speeches of some of the participants provoked laughter among the inflationists, especially those made by parties who importuned the President and the Secretary of the Treasury, on one Sunday at the forty-four million reserve, and thus help avert, as they argued the panic of last fall. It may be truly said that the petitions and resolu-tions offered in the Senate for and against inflation have not the slightest influence upon the Senators one way or another. The determination to inflate is as fixed in the Senate as in the House, and it is expected that to-morrow a vote will be taken fixing the legal tender circulation at

A Bill to Anthorize United States Circ cuit Courts to Issue Writs of Mandamus-A Measure to Relieve the Cred-

itors of Louislana. Mr. Cox to-day introduced a bill in the House to uthorize the Circuit Courts of the United States to issue writs of mandamus in certain cases. This is in the interest of the Louisiana bondholders, who are anxious to prevent the spoliation and confiscation of their moneys by reason of the so-called Funding bill of Louisiana. Under the decision in Graham vs. Norton, 15 Wallace, 427, the courts of the United States have at present no power to issue writs of mandamus. The petition of those aggrieved, headed by Morgan, Seitgman, &c., &c., Shows the total lunded and unfunded debt of Louisiana to be \$24,283,586. The annual interest is \$1,493,258.

Proposed Means of Paying the District School Teachers Their Salaries—Taxing the Citizens Twice for the Same Object. The blb : Ing appropriation for the payment of the teachers in the public schools in the District of Columbia provides also that the government of the District of Columbia shall reimburse the United States by collecting a tax to an amount equal to that appropriated, \$97,740, upon personal property, including banks and other corpora-tions. In other words, for the privilege of enjoying a loan from the government the citizens of the District are to be taxed twice. The bill is likely to be defeated in the Senate, as property owners do not like the idea of being compelled to bear the burdens of the bankrupt District govern-

ment.
The Louisiana Contested Election Case. examination of the case of Pinchback against Sheridan for the seat from Louisiana, and it is understood will report next week that the record evidence on which both claimants rest their respective cases has not enabled the committee to decide between them.

Proposed Modifications of the Customs

Mr. F. H. Roberts has recently presented to the Committee on Ways and Means three bills to amend the existing laws in regard to moleties to informers, seizures of books and papers, and what is technically known as damage allowances. It is understood that the bills have been prepared in and represent the views of the Treasury Department. They have not yet been considered by the com-mittee, but it is very likely that their general principles will receive the approval of the committee, and that some such measures will be reported to the House before long. The Extradition Treaty with Ecuador

Officially Proclaimed. The Extradition treaty between the United States and Ecuador has been officially proclaimed, and is

to continue in force ten years.

Outfits of Clothing for Enlisting Seamen-Petition of the Officers of the

North Atlantic Squadron.
A very interesting memorial was sent by Secretary Robeson to-day to the Naval Committee of the House. It is a letter signed by every officer of the Wabash, Congress, Franklin, Brooklyn, Juniata, Dictator, Mahopac, Ticonderoga, Ossipee, Kansas, Lancaster, Shenandoah, Canandaigus and Pawnee, vessels of the United States Navy which comprise the North Atlantic squadron, asking that an outfit of clothing shall be allowed to our seamen. It will bill for the outfit was reported by him from the Committee on Naval Affairs, and is now on the calendar, and this indorsement of the justice of the measure will no doubt materially aid its passage. Rear Admiral A. Ludlow Case, commanding the fleet, forwarded this petition, urging the grant of the outfit in a letter of great force, and Secretary Robeson warmly approves the bill. Soldiers and marines are allowed their the seaman's pay causing much dissatisfaction and frequent desertions. The passage of Mr. Myers' bill will not only be just to the sailor but

will aid the efficiency of the navy. Woman's Rights on the Briny Deep and in Marine Registers.
The Secretary of the Treasury decides that in case where a woman is owner of a yacht there is nothing in the laws of the United States which can prevent her from being named in the marine papers as the master thereof.

THE FINANCIAL FEVER.

The Senate Approaching a Vote on the Equalization Bill-The Status of the \$44,000,000 Reserve-No Resumption Without Contraction-An Amendment Fixing the Volume of Currency at \$400,000,000-Pertinent Questions.

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1874.
The Senate did little else of importance to-day than to discuss the financial question. Several petitions from merchants relating thereto were

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., presented a memo-

rial of the iron, coal and other companies of Ohio, stating that business there is in a state of stagnation on account of an insufficient volume of cur-rency, and asking that the same be increased and free banking be authorized. Referred to the Com-

mittee on Finance. Mr. Morron said the memorial was signed by fifty-one firms, and, as the Senators from Ohio had not heard of the petitions for more currency from that State, he desired to call their attention to this. He also presented resolutions for more currency adopted by a large meeting of business men at Indianapolis, Ind. Referred to the Committee

Mr. FERRY, (rep.) of Mich., said a few days ago he had the honor to present a memorial for more currency from merchants of New York, and one of the papers of that city had been pleased to question the fact of the petition being genuine. He felt thankful to some of the New York papers for publishing the memorial in full and vindicating

Mr. Logan, (rep.) of Ill., presented a petition of 164 business men of New York for an increase in the volume of the currency. It was referred to the Finance Committee,

The morning hour having expired the Senate

resumed the consideration of the bill to provide for the redemption and reissue of United States notes, and for free bahking.

Mr. Schurz, (lib.) of Mo., moved to amend the first section of the bill by striking out "eighty-two" and inserting "fifty-six," so that the maximum limit of the United States notes should be \$356,000,000, instead or \$382,000,000 as fixed by the bill.

bill.

Mr. Whight, (rep.) of lowa, gave notice that he would ofter an amendment to strike out the whole of the first section of the bill, and insert a section providing that the amount of United States notes for circulation be fixed at \$400,000,000.

Mr. Schukz argued against legalizing the portion of the \$44,000,000 reserve, now in circulation, and said that it had been the intention of Congress to retire that reserve, and there was no authority for its reissue.

Mr. BAYARD, (dem.) of Del., opposed any increase

and said that it had been the intention of Congress to retire that reserve, and there was no authority for its reissae.

Mr. BAYARD, (dem.) of Del., opposed any increase of irredeemable paper money. He read from the Journal of Congress of December, 1805, where the Senator from Michigan (Air. Ferry), then a member of the House of Representatives, voted for contraction.

Mr. Frrier, of Michigan, said he did so vote then, having yielded his judgment to that of the Secretary of the Treasury. He afterwards saw the folly of contraction and voted to arrest it.

No Specie ressumption without contraction.

Mr. Hayard said whether the road to specie payment be nard or easy it must be travelied. He did not mean to say that by contraction alone could specie payment be reached, but it could never give his vote for any bill which proposed to increase the currency. As to the raissue of part of the \$44,000,000 reserve it was wit nout the authority of law, and he could not vore for \$32,000,000 greenback circulation provided for by time bill, as it legalized that issue. He agued that it was a gross misnomer to style any portion of the greenbacks which had been retired as reserves.

Mr. Prielinghuysen, (rep.) of N. J., said he did not understand that any part of the \$44,000,000 had been cancelled or eastroyed. The whole amount had been withdrawn in the nature of a reserve by secretary McCulloch. The law meant that they should be retired and go into a reserve.

Mr. BAYARD said there was no question upon which there could not be a difference of opinion, and now that the Secretary of the Treasury was in sore straits for the justification of his illegal action, it was to be expected that there would be those who would sade with him. He far, Bayard argued that there was but one fund which ever could be cilied a reserve fund, and that amounted to \$60,000,000, and had long since passed out of existence.

Secretarry Richardson Depended.

Mr. Conkling, (rep.) of N. Y., read from the debates of Congress to show that the Secretary of the Tr

back to the House iell to the ground, as the bill was amended in other ways and went back to the House.

Mr. Sherman, (rep.) of Ohio, said this legal discussion as to the right of the Secretary to issue the reserve was a loss of time. The notes had been issued and the government was responsible for them. There was good ground for difference of opinion on the subject, but he hoped it would not be discussed now.

FERTINENT QUESTIONS.

Mr. Scoff, (rep.) of Pa., said after all the discussion on this subject, and having heard all the financial theories from the time of Marco Polo down to Amasa Walker renearsed here, he utterly despaired of throwing a single ray of light on the subject. It was not his purpose to discuss the financial problem generally, but there were three questions which he would refer to—first, how and when is the pledge contained in the act of 1869 to be redeemed? Second, what character of currency shall Congress uraish the people of the United States? Third, what quantity of that currency shall be issued?

He said with either one of these questions unsettled business would be unsettled. No sane man would say that the government could enter upon specie payment immediately, and as gold could not be given for notes he would redeem them in bonds of the government, which to-day are as good as gold. No financial system could be devised which would prevent panies. As to the character of the currency to be furnished the people, he desired to see currency redeemable in gold. He believed there could be a paper currency brought to par it it be redeemed in gold or bonds. That currency should be founded on the national faith. Before concluding his remarks Mr. Scott yielded to the could provent paniers marks Mr. Scott yielded to the coulders of the second to the second to the second the second to the second the second to the second the second that the courters to the currency redeemable in gold.

That currency should be founded on the national faith. Before concluding his remarks Mr. Scott yielded to Mr. Schurz for a motion that the Senate proceed to the consideration of executive business.

Mr. Sherman gave notice that to-morrow he would ask the Senate to remain in session until two or three decisive votes on the Financial bill should be reached.

Mr. Logan hoped there would be an agreement entered into now to commence voting to-morrow afternoon at half-past two o'clock. If the time be fixed Senators would then be present.

Mr. Sherman submitted resolutions providing that after half-past two o'clock to-morrow afternoon speeches on the Financial bill be limited to ten minutes each.

Mr. BAYARD objected. He said he did not desire to see such a raie adopted. There was a principle

Mr. BAYARD objected. He said he did not desire to see such a rule adopted. There was a principle against limiting debate upon a subject like this. Were it upon an appropriation bill, involving no important principles, he would not object. He hoped the Senate of the United States would be the one piace left in the country where the debate should be left to the entire discretion of the members of the body.

Mr. Sherman gave notice that to-morrow he would ask the Senate to pass the resolution.

The motion of Mr. Schurz to go into executive session was agreed to.

paper I regard with amazement and anxiety, and, in my judgment, such an issue would be a detriment and a shame. - CHARLES SUMNER.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Testimony Regarding the Contracts for Paving Streets in Washington City-The Old and the New Government. WASHINGTON, March 25, 1874.

At the meeting of the District of Columbia in vestigating Committee this morning John Collins testified that he had laid sewers, raised houses and done parking and other public work for the Board of Public Works amounting to about \$100,000 without any contract, except that about three weeks ago he signed a contract and gave a bond, both dated back to September 17, 1872, for the faithful performance of certain work amounting to less than \$1,000, all of which was done and paid

for fifteen months previously.

Ex-Mayor Bowen, called by the memorialists, testified that the Board had taken away from his property certain pavement, bricks and Iron railproperty certain pavement, bricks and Iron ralling, and that the District Assessor had relused to allow him credit for this old material for the reason assigned that a certificate had been issued against his property for the entire cost of the improvements. Subsequently, however, he had paid his bill, with interest thereon, and was allowed credit for the old material, but no interest on its value. Neither had he yet received the certificate which the Assessor said had been issued against his property.

which the Assessor said had been issued against his property.

Counsel for the District authorities at this point stated to the committee that no certificate has ever been issued against the property of witness. A recess was here taken.

On the reassembling of the committee Mr. Christle, for the memorialists, moved for leave to file a precept for a number of witnesses from a distance. The reason for the motion was an expectation to prove the leading facts alleged by the memorialists in their charges. The motion was filed.

memorialists in their charges. The motion was filed.
S. J. Bowen, ex-Mayor of Washington, recalled, testified as follows:—The average price paid by the old corporation for grading was sixteen cents per yard, and each contract contained a clause directing that the earth removed should be deposited wherever the commissioners of the several awards should direct, the understanding being that such earth should be ready for filling the streets requiring to be filled.

Peter McNamara testified that he is an old contractor; was a large contractor under the old corporation; contracts under Bowen and Emery were not uniformly let to the lowest bidder; the price for grading was about eighteen or twenty cents per yard, and it was the universal custom of the contractors to use the earth taken from the

excavations to fill lots owned by private parties, for which they got very good pay; the witness stated that the price for grading under the Board is forty cents per yard for old gravelled street and thirty cents per yard for all other grading, the contractor being compelled in all cases to deposit the earth in the streets necessary to be filled; the witness would prefer to grade the streets on the basis of the old corporation contracts to the basis established by the Board of Public Works.

paper I regard with amazement and anxiety, and, in my judgment, such an issue would be a detri-ment and a shame.—CHARLES SUMNER.

#### SANBORN'S "COLLECTIONS."

The Revenue Office "Assist" Him-District Attorney Bliss Admits Receiving Perquisites Under the Contract-The Great Sanborn on the Stand-The Committee of Ways and Means Refuse to Listen to a Restricted Statement from Him. Washington, March 25, 1874.

The Committee on Ways and Means gave another hearing to-day in the matter of the Sanborn con-tracts. Mr. Bliss, United States District Attorney for the Southern district of New York, made a detailed statement as to the connection of his office with the collection of the claims under Sanborn, and parried with a great deal of dexterity the attempts made by various members of the committee to obtain an admission from him that the contract was made in bad policy and was unnecessary. He said that with the lights now before him he would not now make a contract; but that at the time it was made it was apparent that whatever should reach the Treasury under it was so much clear gain. He admitted virtually, however, that the great discovery made by Sanborn, the key of the whole position, was the obtaining from the Surro-gate's office of the list of estates which were subject to the legacy and succession tax. He characterized that fist as a scoop net, from the contents of which the big fish, the estates, which had not actually paid the tax, were afterwards sitted out by comparison with the records of the Internal Revenue Collector's office. There was no reason why the regular officers of the government could not have obtained the same information, but it. was like the egg of Columbus, which anybody might make stand on end after he saw how it was done. He expressed his belief that the \$64,000 col-

done. He expressed his belief that the \$64,000 collected in New York under the Sanborn contract would never have been collected through the regular instrumentalities of the government. It could have been, perhaps, but it would not have been. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S PERGURITES.

On being questioned by Mr. Niblack in reference to his own five per cent on the amount collected, he justified his course by saying that if, with the consent of his superior, he could attany time get money for readering services not foreideen by law he was very glad to get it, and he thought that everybody else would be, except, perhaps, members of Congress.

Mr. Nionek wald:—"Judge Noah Dayls testified before us that he declined the same offer."

Mr. Bluss—I do not know whether he testified it or not.

Mr. Nisnack and:—"Judge Noah Days testified before as that he declined the same order."

Mr. Bliss—I do not know whether he testified it or not.

Mr. Niblack—He stated it before the committee. Mr. Bliss—I am content to have my position and that of Judge Noah Davis as they now scand belore the country relatively judged.

Solictor Banded iohowed Mr. Bliss. He appeared, he said, not in the interest of Sanborn, or any other contractor, but at the request of the secretary of the Treasury, to explain the relation of the department to this contract question. Application for contracts to Collect delts due the government had been made as early as 1809, and, although the Secretary and the Solictor were not lavorably disposed to the system, contracts were given to several parties at rates of commission varying from twenty to flip per cent on the amounts to be cohected, the contractors to pay all the expenses; but the invariable result had been that nothing was cofficied; at all events, that the government got nothing. The system was abrogated and was not resumed until the passage of the law under which the Sanborn contract was given, and less care was taken to limit the commission under that contract than there would have been if it had been supposed that anything would be collected. The Solicitor when they under which the Sanborn contract was sincer Douglass was not called into consutation by the Secretary and the Solicitor when they undertook to carry the law into effect, and also as to what authority he had to write letters to internal Revenue officers, directing them to aid Sanborn because the law required that a should ald them. To the first question his rejly was that the law referred to "debts withheld" and not particularly to internal revenue matters, and to the second that the leave of assistance was that it should be mainal, and that Sanborn could not very well assist the regular onlocers unless they were willing to assist him. In reply to a question by the Secretary and the law reperted to "debts withheld" and

make. He was ready, however, to give to the committee such general information on the sub-

ject as he possessed.
He was informed by the Chairman and other members of the Committee that the Committee He was informed by the Chairman and other members of the Committee that the Committee could not sit and listen to any partial statement; that he was present not by order of the committee but of his own volition, and in accordance with his own request in order that he might make a full and fair statement of all the circumstances connected with his contract. If he was not prepared to do that and to answer such questions as the Committee might desire to put to him the Committee would decline to listen to any partial or restricted statement.

Mr. Sanborn's counsel (Mr. Woodbridge, of Vermont), justified the position taken by his client, although he expressed his belief that nothing which Sanborn could say could prejudice his case; but still, out of caution, he though it better ion him not to submit himselt to the examination of the committee. He alluded to the fact that there was a gentleman present jungerstood to be an Assistant District Attorney from Brooklyni watching to take advantage of anything that Sanborn might say.

The upshot of all this parley was that the com-

The upshot of all this pariey was that the com-

mittee adjourned without any decision when sanborn should or should not be made a witness.

### Second Day's Sale.

Considerable surprise was manifested by the attendants on the trade sale now going on at the Trade Salesrooms of Messrs. George A. Leavitt & Co., Clinton Hall, on account of the large prices obtained for the publications of Messrs. D. ton & Co., whose invoice inaugurated the sale on Tuesday. This house was represented on the stand by Mr. Waiter S. Appleten, and it was due to his exertions that the books of this firm were so any particular mention of the offerings by this firm. Sufficient to say that their lines embraced

any particular mention of the offerings by this firm. Sufficient to say that their lines embraced scientific, medical, educational and classic works, ruling as standard among the trade. Their invoice brought over \$15,000.

Yesterday's sale was commenced with the invoice of Messrs. Estes & Lauriat, of Boston, consisting of historical, botanical and standard works, varying from twenty-five cents to \$75 each. This was followed by the contribution of Mr. William J. Widdleton, of New York, comprising choice classics, histories and other works, Messrs. Little, Brown & Co., of Boston, followed next on the catalogue, with a fine selection of various publications, all of their own manufacture.

Messrs, William M wood & Co., of New York, had a full line of medical and scientific works. On their school books a perfect raid occurred. Of "Brown's First Lines of English Grammar," invoiced at 250 copies, over 5,000 volumes were sold at full prices.

Hinton & Co., of New York, had a small invoice of selected publications, which sold well up to the regular prices.

Great interest was manifested in the invoice of Messrs. Lee & Shepard, of Boston. A raid was made on the "Oliver Optic," series.

Robert Coyer's works sold well. Elijah Kellogg's works, Mrs. Madeline Leslie's books, "Little Canary" series, "Sophic May!" books, "Dotty Dimpie" stories, "Sumybank" stories, "Frolessor Townsend's works, "Vacation Story Eooks," Cates & Woodward" "Encyclopedia of Dates" at \$15, \$18, and \$28 per volume. "New Handy Books" and new publications for the spring of 1874, besides other standard works, sold fully up to the lines and regular prices.

Charies Desliver, of Philadelphia; Mason, Baker & Pratt, of New York; G. W. Fisher, Rochester, N. Y.: Claxton, Remsen & Haleffinger, of Philadelphia, and A. J. Holman & Co., of Philadelphia, acach had good invoices in yesterday's sales, which throughout brongnt full prices. Messrs. Scribner, of English works contributed by Messrs. Scribner, of English works contributed by Messrs. Scribner,

the sale.

To-day's offerings commence with a fine invoice of English works contributed by Messrs. Scribner, Welford & Armstrong.

The possibility of a new issue of inconvertible paper I regard with amazement and anxiety, and in my judgment, such an issue would be a detriment and a shame. - CHARLES SUMNER.